2016 BRINGING CHANGES

metroNEWS

Lotto MAX
Friday's Jackpot
$32 million
estimated

Toronto metro

Your ess… daily news | THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2015

THE HATEFUL EIGHT
Round 'em up
Hanging with the cast

metroLIFE

High 2°C/Low -2°C Sun and cloud

New year's excess

Metro explains why this is the most expensive bottle of champagne you can buy in the city

metroNEWS

Speeders beware

SAFETY

Photo radar could give city much-needed cash, some say

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

As Toronto searches for ways to fill a $57-million hole in its operating budget, there's a new proposal on the table — target speeders and make them pay.

Proponents of photo radar say the technology could add some cash to the city's coffers while making streets safer.

Ontario implemented photo radar on its highways in 1994 under NDP Premier Bob Rae, but the program was scrapped less than a year later after it proved unpopular with drivers — and voters. A new poll released Wednesday by Forum Research, however, shows half of Torontonians approve of the tool. That's a six per cent increase since the last time Forum polled the question in 2013.

"I guess it's an idea whose time is starting to come in the city," Forum president Lorne Bozinoff said.

Support was highest amongst Baby Boomers, those living in Etobicoke and John Tory voters. Residents of North York and those who voted for Doug Ford were least likely to be in favour, Forum said.

Opponents of photo radar were also more likely to see it as a "revenue-raising tool" than a "safety measure." But, safety is top of mind for some as the city marks one of the deadliest years on Toronto streets in a decade.

"If you follow the rules and drive safely, no one will ever grab your money," said Coun. Josh Matlow. "You'd be making a choice to give your money to the city by speeding."

When the province ran its photo radar program, preliminary studies showed it reduced speeding on highways and brought in more than $19 million in revenue. The City of Edmonton expanded its photo radar program in 2012 and doubled fine revenue — to the tune $40 million — the following year.

> **We do need money. But photo radar isn't a cash grab.**
> Coun. Josh Matlow

Michael Black of Walk Toronto said photo radar could provide cost-effective enforcement of the new 30 km/h speed limit on residential streets.

"The alternative to using photo radar is to institute traffic calming on every single local residential street in the city," Black said. "That would cost a fortune."

metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

No bloodshed, no dispute: Belgium, Netherlands to swap land because 'it makes sense.' **World**

One last bite for local flavour

BUSINESS

Ongoing LRT project forces King Falafel to close its doors

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Jamila Rifi, centre, and her daughters Noseiba, right, and Hanan, have decided to close down the family falafel business after they learned Metrolinx is tearing down the plaza at Eglinton and Bathurst. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Noseiba Rifi is all smiles as she picks up the phone at the King Falafel Wednesday afternoon.

"Yep, we're open tomorrow, regular hours," she says to a caller. "Gotta come early though, the lineup could be long."

She's not kidding. Since the Bathurst-Eglinton eatery announced it would be closing, customers have flocked to the corner for a last bite of the local staple's food.

"I used to freeze their lentil soup. They're that good," says Zoe Wisenberg, as she and her two friends munch on falafels in a corner table.

King Falafel first opened in 1978. The popular shawarma shop will close its doors Thursday, becoming one of many victims of the Eglinton Crosstown LRT project. Metrolinx is taking over the plaza and turning it into a temporary parking lot.

Many of the customers at King Falafel Wednesday weren't just there to eat; they were also paying tribute to a piece of neighbourhood history.

"I'm going to miss you guys. You were the best in the city," says a customer named Cindy. She lives around the corner and has regularly dined at the joint for about 30 years.

Over the years, King Falafel has really put the "family" in family business. Noseiba and her sister Hanan grew up serving at the restaurant and were on hand Wednesday to help their mother, Jamila Rifi, handle the surge of customers.

> **People here know me. I know them all. Some of them call me mum.** Jamila Rifi

Both Noseiba and Hanan say they met their husbands while working behind the counter.

"They tease my younger daughter that she needs to come serve falafel if she wants to meet a man," quips Rifi.

Rifi says they've "put so much love" into the food they serve, and customers have become like kin.

With the restaurant closed, Rifi — who turns 65 in the summer — plans to relax, travel to her home country Morocco and eventually retire.

"It's going to feel weird not to come here," she says.

HONOUR

Torontonians appointed to the Order of Canada

Some 69 Canadians are to be honoured this year with one of the country's highest accolades — an appointment to the Order of Canada. They join more than 6,000 remarkable people honoured since 1967, including author Margaret Atwood, singer Leonard Cohen and humanitarian Terry Fox. Here's a look at a few of this year's Toronto additions.

1 **Atom Egoyan, Toronto (Companion):** A promotion within the order for his groundbreaking contributions to film as an internationally respected filmmaker and for his commitment to mentoring and showcasing Canadian artists.

2 **Barbara Hall (Member):** This former Toronto mayor is a community activist and lawyer who, before her city hall tenure, defended gay men arrested in the 1981 bath-house raids.

3 **Frances Alice Shepherd (Officer):** This doctor's work has helped establish lung cancer tumour banks and has significantly advanced therapy for cancer patients.

4 **Kent Roach (Member):** This University of Toronto professor is a former law clerk to a Supreme Court justice and an author of 12 books on the legal system and anti-terrorism.

5 **Rohinton Mistry (Officer):** For his acclaimed work as an author of international renown.

6 **Meric Gertler (Member):** This geographer with experience advising the European Union doubles as president of the University of Toronto.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE, WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cosby charged with sexual assault of Toronto woman

CRIME

Comedian, alleged to have drugged, violated victim

Bill Cosby was charged Wednesday with drugging and sexually assaulting a Toronto woman at his home 12 years ago — the first criminal charges brought against the comedian out of the torrent of allegations that destroyed his good-guy image as America's Dad.

The case sets the stage for perhaps the biggest Hollywood celebrity trial of the mobile-all-the-time era and could send the 78-year-old Cosby to prison.

The woman at the centre of the case is Andrea Constand, a Toronto massage therapist who was a Temple University employee in Pennsylvania at the time of the alleged assault.

She told police that Cosby drugged her and violated her by putting his hands down her pants at his mansion in suburban Philadelphia in 2004, but no charges were initially laid.

Bill Cosby's mugshot MONTGOMERY COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE/GETTY IMAGES

She is hopeful that her patience has encouraged other victims to come forward.
Dolores Troiani, Andrea Constand's lawyer

Actor and comedian Bill Cosby is helped by his lawyers as he arrives for a court appearance, Wednesday, in Elkins Park, Pa. Cosby was arrested and charged with drugging and sexually assaulting a woman at his home in January 2004. Inset: Andrea Constand.
DAVID SWANSON/THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS; INSET: TODD KOROL/TORONTO STAR

Cosby had no comment on his way in and out of court as he was arraigned on a charge of aggravated indecent assault, punishable by five to 10 years behind bars and a $25,000 fine.

He did not have to enter a plea and was allowed to remain free on $1 million bail for another hearing Jan. 14.

Guided by his lawyers, he walked slowly into the courtroom, using a cane and wearing a grey tweed hoodie sweater. He seemed to have trouble seeing the paperwork and finding the place to sign, and his lawyers helped him hold the pen. But he seemed at ease, laughing and chatting with his attorneys.

When the judge said, "Good luck, Mr. Cosby," he shouted: "Thank you!"

Prosecutors accused Cosby of plying Constand with pills and wine, then penetrating her with his fingers without her consent, while she was drifting in and out of consciousness.

She was "frozen, paralysed, unable to move," said Montgomery County District Attorney-elect Kevin Steele.

In court documents, prosecutors said the drugs were the cold medicine Benadryl or some other, unidentified substance.

The charge was laid just days before the 12-year statute of limitations for bringing charges was set to run out. Cosby had acknowledged under oath a decade ago he had sexual contact with Constand but said it was consensual.

Prosecutors reopened the case over the summer as damaging testimony was unsealed in a civil lawsuit by Constand against Cosby, and as dozens of women came forward with accusations.

Many of those alleged assaults date back decades, and the statute of limitations for bringing charges has expired in nearly every case. A lawyer for Constand said her now 42-year-old client welcomed the charges.

"She feels that they believe her, and, to any victim, that is foremost in your mind," said attorney Dolores Troiani. "Naturally it is troubling that it took until the eleventh hour for this day to arrive. She is hopeful that her patience has encouraged other victims to come forward."
THE CANADIAN PRESS

ROAD SAFETY

York police take aim at impaired driving in YouTube promo video

York Regional Police are leaning on comedic antics to dissuade drunk drivers this holiday season, releasing a sardonic promo video inviting them to stay in their "palace of no-class comfort and bottom-level luxury" — jail.

The video opens with sweeping views of a police detachment while cheesy music reminiscent of a low-budget infomercial tingles in the background.

"Forget about the outside world and enter a tawdry fortress of solitude à L'Hotel de York Regional Police — government owned and operated since 1971," the narrator's suave voice croons.

"Our suites are divine, and your comfort is far from paramount. Each suite boasts stainless steel appliances and a firm mattress made from real Canadian concrete."

The front desk at L'Hotel de York Regional Police as shown in the police service's YouTube video. SCREENSHOT

The video pokes fun at the "free shuttle service" that will be provided (police cruisers), gorgeous views of York Region "you will never get to see" and shows a police officer smacking on a rubber glove while the voiceover promises "our friendly staff will ... tend to your every need."

The flurry of jokes ends with a banner across the screen that reads: "Impaired driving is no joke. As bad as this hotel sounds, the consequences of impaired driving could be much worse."

More than 1,800 impaired driving charges have been laid in York Region this year, up six per cent compared to 2014, according to police.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Girls pair those in need with mismatched socks

Two Thornhill girls are on a mission to make use of mismatched socks.

Charley Rangel and Carly Goldhar, both 10, are collecting single socks, pairing them up and donating them to homeless shelters and outreach centres throughout York Region and Toronto.

Charley Rangel, left, and Carly Goldhar. FACEBOOK

To date, the project — which started in the fall — has netted 12,000 pairs of socks, some brought in through drives at schools, condos and malls.

One event, organized by two women in a condo at Yonge Street and Clark Avenue, brought in 650 pairs alone. People in California and Vancouver have been in contact about starting projects.

There's been so much interest, Carly Goldhar considers the initiative her "full-time job."

Both girls have garages filled with socks and are looking for someone who will donate a storage facility: "We didn't anticipate growing like this," Carly said.
SIMONE JOSEPH/THORNHILL LIBERAL

IN BRIEF

Robbery victim, 25, dies
A 25-year-old man has died following what police believe was a violent street robbery early Wednesday. At 12:30 a.m., paramedics received a call about an injured man outside a bar at Yonge Street and Lola Road, south of Eglinton Avenue. The man, identified as Zaher Noureddine, was taken to hospital and later pronounced dead. Police called the incident a "fight," but now believe it was related to a robbery. They seek three male suspects in dark clothing seen fleeing in a light-coloured four-door sedan. Anyone with information is asked to contact Det. Jeff Allington at 416-808-7400, ext. 77398; Det. Sgt. Kevin Leahy at 416-808-7400, ext. 77405; or Crime Stoppers at 416-222-TIPS (8477).
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Police seek suspects in violent home invasions
Toronto Police are seeking four to five men in relation to two violent home invasions targeting the same property. According to police, the group robbed a man in his home on Nov. 30 around 3:40 a.m. in the area of Ellesmere Road and Markham Road. The same man was then robbed a second time by the same group on Dec. 7 at 2:15 a.m. The victim was assaulted both times. Anyone with information is asked to contact police at 416-808-7350, or Crime Stoppers.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Alberta man charged with aircraft assault
An Alberta man was charged Wednesday after a flight attendant was injured aboard an Air Canada flight en route to India, forcing the plane to return to Toronto. Jaskaran Sidhu was charged with assault causing bodily harm, endangering the safety of an aircraft and two counts of mischief. He was to appear in a Brampton, Ont., court Wednesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Girl charged in Christmas stabbing granted bail
A 13-year-old charged with attempted murder after a Christmas Day stabbing has been granted bail. The accused girl, who cannot be named due to her age, will be under house arrest except when she attends school or is in the company of her father, who is acting as her surety, or her uncle and his wife. Her bail was set at $15,000 Wednesday.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

$6.7K bottle of Dom Pérignon ready for de-corking

Liz Beddall
Metro | Toronto

If you've got $6,763.95 burning a hole in your pocket this New Year's Eve, this bottle of Dom Pérignon Oenothèque Brut Rosé Champagne 1982 is the one to pop with your crew. The 30-year-old bottle, kept under lock and key at the Manulife Centre LCBO, is the most expensive bottle of champagne available for purchase in Toronto. Metro asked why.

1. **It's rare:** This champagne was produced in ultra-limited quantities in the years 1966, 1978, 1982 and 1990. Imported by Sotheby's, the 1982 vintage is considered to be particularly spectacular and was awarded a perfect five-star rating in Decanter's Vintage Guide.

2. **It's ready:** The word "oenothèque" means that the champagne was tested by the cave-master, who determined the peak of the champagne. The time for this brut rosé is now. At 30 years old, this bottle is at its absolute best.

3. **It's desired:** In its two years living at the Manulife Centre's LCBO, this bottle of Dom has been eyed by a number of high-rollers and celebrities, but never purchased — will you be the person to pop it?

LCBO product consultant Shukina Chharawala holds a bottle of Dom Pérignon Oenothèque Brut Rosé Champagne 1982 at the Manulife Centre. **At $6,763.95, it is the most expensive bottle of champagne currently available for purchase in Toronto.** LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

CHAMPAGNE ON A BUDGET (AND 'BUDGET')

Louis Roederer Cristal Brut Champagne 2006
Available for a mere $3,100 at the Summerhill LCBO location, this champagne, offering a finely layered mesh of blackberry, poached pear, almond pastry, lemon zest and pickled ginger flavours, is the second most expensive bottle up for grabs.
Cost: $3,100

Tarlant Brut Reserve Champagne:
For those hoping to ring in the new year with a great champagne, but don't have a thousand bucks handy, LCBO product consultant Brendan McKenna recommends this $44 bottle. "It has a great balance of complexity, elegance and supply is readily available," says McKenna. "That's what I'll be drinking." **Cost: $ 44**

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ONE LOCATION ONLY! NEW YEARS DAY JAN. 1st 9am-7pm
UP TO 90% OFF EVERYTHING MUST BE SOLD! *DISCOUNT OFF COMPARE AT PRICE
DESIGNER SUITS
3 FOR 1
BUY 1 GET 2 FREE
Super Suit Special 3/150 Compare at $295 each 9AM DOORCRASHER SPECIAL While Quantities last
Designer Suits 3/$199.99 Compare at $395 each
100% Wool Suits 3/$299.99 Compare at $495 each
100% Wool Designer Suits 3/$399.99 Compare at $595 each
MASSIVE OUTERWEAR BLOWOUT
$29.99 TO NOTHING OVER $99.99 NO EXCEPTIONS! PRICED TO CLEAR!
FAHRENHEIT BUBBLE JACKETS $29.99 Compare at $150
FAHRENHEIT BOMBER JACKETS $39.99 Compare at $250
OPPENHEIMER FUR TRIM BOMBERS $50 Compare at $295
stockhomme WOOL JACKETS $50 Compare at $250
OPPENHEIMER FUR TRIM PARKAS $50 Compare at $295
RING IN 2016 IN STYLE! TUXEDOS WHY RENT WHEN YOU CAN OWN FOR LESS!
NOW FROM ONLY $75 Compare at $195
stockhomme FASHION WOOL CAR COATS $75 Compare at $250
CANADA DOWN FILLED BOMBER JACKETS $75 Compare at $350
CANADA DOWN FILLED PARKAS $99.99 Compare at $350
9AM DOORCRASHERS...FURTHER REDUCTIONS TAKEN!
SWEATERS 85% OFF $5.99 Compare at $39.99
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ONE DAY ONLY!
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*2ND & 3RD ITEM AT EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE • SOME EXCEPTIONS • SOME ITEMS NOT EXACTLY AS ILLUSTRATED • WHILE SUPPLIES LAST • SEE STORE FOR DETAILS. DISCOUNT IS TAKEN FROM THE CMV/ "COMPARE AT" PRICES.

MUSIC

Drake fans unite for NYE cry

When his eight-month relationship came to an end last Thanksgiving, Allan Pham turned to Drake and social media for comfort.

What started as funny Snapchats sent to his friends ended in a fake Facebook event for Thursday, with over 24,000 people "attending." The event calls for two simple acts: Listen to Drake on New Year's Eve and cry.

"I made it as a joke," said Pham, 17, who lives in Southern California. "People were telling me (my Snaps) were pretty funny so it motivated me to do the page."

Pham invited a few friends and expected about 20 people to join. "The next day, it grew pretty big," he said. "It was unexpected."

Pham has a kindred spirit in Jon Ou, 19, of Toronto.

Unaware of Pham's page, Ou and several friends created a similar fake event on Facebook. The only difference: they're planning to cry to Drake's older songs. More than 27,000 people are "attending."

"I actually feel really proud of myself and my friends," said Ou. "People started inviting their friends from other schools, other cities and other countries."

The event has attracted Facebook users from all corners of the world.

Jon Ou poses outside his family's Scarborough home Dec. 29. Ou is the organizer of a Facebook event called "Listening to old Drake Songs and Cry." ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

For Jenny Gurvich, a 27-year-old from New York, clicking "Going" on the event meant joining a community who feel the same way about music.

"When you look at the type of songs, they're relatable regardless of where you are," she said.

Polls and memes about past breakups and Drake's sensitivity flood the Facebook event pages.

According to one poll, Drake's top five sad songs are: "Marvin's Room," "Shot for Me," "Doing It Wrong," "Hotline Bling" and "Take Care."

What everyone seems to agree on: the Toronto-born rapper is sensitive.

"The girl is tired of the guy or is seeing someone else, and that could happen to a lot of guys," Ou said. "He's not singing from a girl's perspective."

But for Gurvich, that's not a barrier. "When I was in that situation a few years ago, those are the ones I had on repeat. You listen to it and think: this is exactly how I feel."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Drake THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3 ISSUES CARRYING OVER TO 2016

A slew of changes awaits Toronto residents in the New Year, some cloudy as shisha smoke, others as precise as an Uber app. Here are some to keep your eye on. **Torstar News Service**

1 Hookah lounges

Hookah lounges are banned in Toronto effective April 1. Last month's prohibition by city council outlaws smoking — tobacco or otherwise — from a water pipe at city-licensed businesses, with at least 70 establishments and thousands of patrons affected. The ban follows recommendations from the city's medical officer of health outlining significant risks to the public, including sending the wrong message to youth.

2 TTC

TTC passengers will have to dole out a little more than usual in 2016. Transit riders will pay an extra 25 cents for cash fares — $3.25 total — and an added dime per token — $2.90 — in the New Year. Metropass prices remain frozen, as do TTC senior and student fares.

3 Uber

Health and safety concerns persist around Uber as well. City staff have proposed reforms — like new insurance requirements and licensing fees for "transportation network companies" — to tighten standards and level the playing field between app-based upstart Uber and the beleaguered taxi industry. The regulations, affecting all 15,000 local Uber drivers, would zero in on consumer protection, demanding stringent criminal record checks for drivers, mechanical inspections and compliance records — just like what is required of taxi and limousine operators. The changes hinge on how city council votes.

Public figures give their New Year's resolution for the city:

Everyone has to do better, including me, at keeping a focus on one strong, fair city as we grapple with complex issues.
Mayor John Tory

Everyone, including police officers, should resolve to do their part for a safe and livable city.
Police Chief Mark Saunders

To continue our relentless drive to modernize the TTC and deliver a transit system that makes Toronto proud.
TTC CEO Andy Byford

This New Year's Eve, ride safe all night!
Free TTC service provided by Corby Spirit and Wine.

IN SPIRIT AND WINE
CORBY
The leader in Canadian whisky, creating spirit since 1859.

Don't drink and drive.
Shazam to take the pledge and
ENTER TO WIN A YEAR OF FREE TTC SERVICE!*
@CorbySW #CorbySafeRides Corby.ca/pledge

* No purchase necessary. Must be legal drinking age. For full contest details, visit Corby.ca/pledge

TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION

Tax changes set for 2016

New year brings new rules

The new year always brings some changes to how much Canadians will be paying — or getting back — in taxes, especially when there is a new federal government in town.

1 Tax cuts and tax hikes
The federal government is lowering the rate for the second income-tax bracket — affecting Canadians who earn between $45,282 and $90,563 per year — from 22 per cent to 20.5 per cent beginning Jan. 1.

The federal government also introduced a new tax bracket for individuals whose taxable personal income exceeds $200,000 per year. Income over that amount will now be taxed at a rate of 33 per cent, up from 29 per cent.

2 Canada Child Benefit
Families will have to wait a little longer for the promised Canada Child Benefit, a monthly tax-free payment the Liberals promised to replace the Universal Child Care Benefit and other measures.

Finance Minister Bill Morneau has said those payments will begin July 1, 2016, with more details expected early in the new year.

The Liberal government also plans to introduce legislation that would repeal income-splitting for couples with children (but not for pensions) beginning in 2016.

$1
The price of a single stamp for domestic letter mail weighing 30 grams or less will remain at $1.00

3 Tax-Free Savings
The Liberals introduced legislation to bring the limit on contributions to the Tax-Free Savings Account back down to $5,500 (from $10,000) for 2016.

Future increases will be indexed to inflation using the Consumer Price Index, rounded to the nearest $500.

4 Employment Insurance
The new year brings good news for those needing Employment Insurance as the maximum insurable earnings will increase from $49,500 to $50,800 beginning Jan. 1. This means the maximum weekly EI benefit rate will also rise from $524 to $537 per week.

Meanwhile, the premium rate, which is the money that comes off your paycheque, will stay at $1.88 per $100 of insurable earnings.

5 Canada Pension Plan
The maximum pensionable earnings under the CPP will be $54,900 in 2016 — an increase from $53,600 in 2015 — and the basic exemption amount will stay at $3,500. The contribution rates for both employees and employers will remain at 4.95 per cent, but because of the increase in pensionable earnings the maximum annual contribution will be $2,544.30, up from $2,479.95 in 2015.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Conservative MP Michelle Rempel says Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his Liberal government should held to account for breaking their promise. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

REFUGEES

Liberals won't meet goal

Barring a miraculous last-minute revolution in air travel, the Liberal government will likely miss their (amended) goal of bringing 10,000 Syrian refugees to Canada by Jan. 1.

As of Wednesday evening, the government's figures show they were able to bring in less than half that number. A total of 4,420 Syrians arrived between Nov. 4, when the Liberal cabinet was sworn in, and Dec. 28.

A further 4,985 refugees had been approved for permanent residency, awaiting transportation to Canada. The government has lumped those two totals together on their frequently updated "Welcome Refugees" website — 9,405 Syrians from refugee camps in Jordan, Turkey, and Lebanon, arrived or arriving soon. Many arrivals are privately sponsored, some are government-sponsored.

That's a far cry from the Liberals' campaign pledge to resettle 25,000 government-sponsored refugees "immediately." And it's still quite a ways from the 10,000 privately and government-sponsored refugees Immigration Minister John McCallum hoped to get here after he admitted the campaign promise was unattainable.

> **"This is what was their sort-of wedge in the campaign against other parties ... and they failed.**
> Conservative critic Michelle Rempel

Does that matter?

"I believe that the government keeping the promise as a priority in their agenda is the main issue that Canadians need to be concerned about," said Abdulrahman Al-Masri, a refugee from Damascus and freelance journalist who arrived in Canada in 2014.

"Still, speaking about it, addressing the topic, never really forgetting about it from government officials, ministers, and Justin Trudeau himself, it's a good sign that they did not forget about it, they're working on it."

Al-Masri's comments echo many in the refugee advocacy community who have given and continue to give the new Liberal government plenty of room to back away from their overly ambitious timeline.

But Conservative critic Michelle Rempel said the Liberals should be held to account for breaking their promise, not least because the Syrian refugee crisis became a central issue during the federal campaign.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

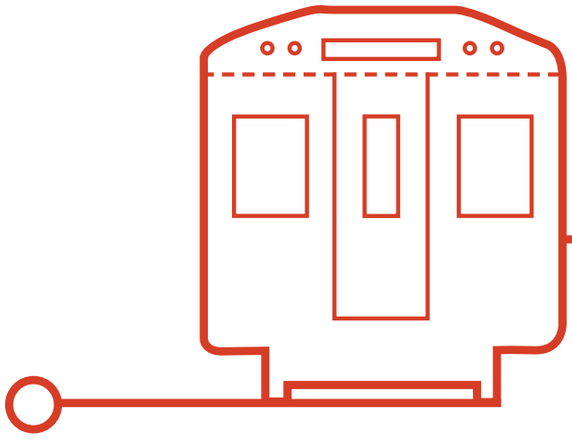
Turbulence injures riders
Air Canada passengers needed to be strapped to back boards and taken from a jet after an overseas flight to Toronto encountered turbulence Wednesday and diverted to Calgary. Up to 20 people were reported injured on the Boeing 777 from Shanghai.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Earthquake shakes B.C.
A 4.3 magnitude earthquake struck British Columbia's south coast at 11:39 p.m. local time Tuesday, about 20 kilometres north of Victoria, and was felt across much of southern B.C. There was no reported damage or injuries and it did not spawn a tsunami. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Several Tories resigning
The Liberal government says a "significant number" of Conservative appointees have offered to step down after being asked to quit, while others will be called before parliamentary committees to explain their credentials.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Murder inquiry pending
Police in Grenada say a preliminary inquiry for a man charged with non-capital murder in the death of a N.B. woman will begin Feb. 1. Const. Pauline Williams of the Royal Grenada Police Force in St. George's says Akim Frank was remanded to custody following a court appearance today.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

We're putting more into the TTC so you get more out of it.



Good Sunday Morning, Toronto!
Early Sunday Subway Opening
effective January 3, 2016.
Trains start running at 8 a.m.*

*First train times vary by station.
Check **ttc.ca** or your station for more information.

U.S. floods prompt several evacuations

EMERGENCY

Two dozen federal levees under threat in Midwest

A rare winter flood threatened nearly two dozen federal levees in Missouri and Illinois on Wednesday as rivers rose, prompting evacuations in several places.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has deemed 19 levees highly vulnerable to flooding; by midday, those levees, all under close scrutiny, were holding up.

But people were moving out just in case, including the St. Louis suburb of Valley Park, where Mayor Michael Pennise ordered mandatory evacuations for 350 to 400 homes and dozens of businesses in the section of town near the fast-rising Meramec River.

Swollen rivers and streams have been pushed to heights not seen since the massive 1993 floods in some places. At least 20 deaths over several days in Missouri and Illinois were blamed on flooding, mostly involving vehicles that drove onto swamped roadways, and at least two people were still missing Wednesday.

Some parts of interstates in Missouri reopened Wednesday, while others — including Interstate 44 near Valley Park — were still covered by water. Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon has activated the National Guard to assist with security in evacuated areas and to help keep road closure sites clear.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Floodwaters from Lake Taneycomo surround several homes in a Branson, Mo., neighbourhood.

NATHAN PAPES/THE SPRINGFIELD NEWS-LEADER VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BORDER DEAL

Belgium, Netherlands to exchange territory

Throughout history, borders have caused unfathomable bloodshed, ageless feuds and decades-old legal disputes, which makes plans for a friendly exchange of land between the Netherlands and Belgium all the more remarkable.

The reason for such magnanimity? "Because it makes sense to do so," says Marcel Neven, the mayor of Vise, Belgium.

Well, that and perhaps a little help from a headless body.

While Belgium will be losing a splendid piece of nature that juts into the Meuse River dividing the two nations, it will also unburden itself of a jurisdictional nightmare that developed over time as the river meandered to turn the portion of land belonging to Belgium — about 15 soccer fields worth — into a peninsula linked only to the Netherlands.

Over time, the area was rumoured to be increasingly lawless, a haven for drug dealers and illicit sexual escapades. Then, some three years ago, passersby stumbled onto a headless body. "They alerted Dutch authorities, who told them it was Belgian territory," said Jean-Francois Duchesne, police Commissaire of the Lower Meuse region.

In short, the Dutch could not go there because it was Belgian territory, and Belgian police and judicial authorities found it extremely tough to get there. They are not allowed to cross into the Netherlands without special permission and the peninsula had no proper landing zone for boats or equipment coming in by water.

However, preparatory work has been done and the two nations' parliaments should be able to complete a deal sometime in 2016, Neven said, almost two centuries after the 1843 border posts were set. And all with a smile on everyone's face, even though Belgium will get only a tiny part around a lock that has been built to promote traffic between the two nations.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A ship passes from Dutch-owned waters into Belgian-owned waters.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Migrants in EU top 1 million

The UN refugee agency said Wednesday that the number of migrants who've arrived in Europe by sea this year now tops 1 million.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees said 1,000,573 people have now arrived by boat during the year — 844,176 of them landing in Greece and 152,700 in Italy. Spain reported 3,592 arrivals and Malta 105. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reverand reprimanded for riding hoverboard, singing

Philippine Roman Catholic Church officials have reprimanded a priest for riding a hoverboard and singing a song during Christmas Eve Mass.

The Diocese of San Pablo, south of Manila, said the Rev. Albert San Jose apologized for his action, which was caught on video and widely shared on YouTube.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Home Outfitters

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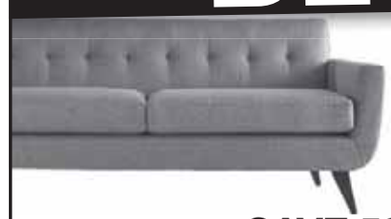

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Amusement parks roll to new heights

ENTERTAINMENT

Video game, film companies to take fans on a thrilling ride

How much would you pay to have a real drink in Mos Eisley Cantina while the band plays on? How about a hovercraft tour of lovely Panem, with the guide pointing out where Katniss Everdeen lived? Or why not grab your leathers and take a ride with the Son of Anarchy Motorcycle Club?

In a world where Disney owns Marvel and Star Wars and looks to dominate pop culture for the foreseeable future, it's one of its oldest legacy businesses — theme parks — facing serious competition in the next few years.

"For us, it is part of a global, 360-degree strategy to expand our brands into other territories," said Jean de Rivières, senior vice president of Ubisoft Motion Pictures. Ubisoft is one of the biggest video game makers in the world, with franchises that include Assassin's Creed, Rainbow Six and Just Dance, and de Rivières is part of the team working to create a theme park in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, that is set to open in 2020.

Assassin's Creed Syndicate fuses new ideas and legacy concepts from the franchise's past. CONTRIBUTED/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"It is that idea of gamification, and how people play with us, so we would like to move that into parks ... We would like a park that is gamified, so that anybody can come and play," he said.

Ubisoft is far from alone; the world will soon see theme parks featuring everything from Night at the Museum and Sons of Anarchy (20th Century Fox Worlds), Hunger Games (Lionsgate) and Nintendo (Universal parks).

The reason for the growth is simple: Theme parks are on a financial upswing. Last year, the top 25 theme parks worldwide saw attendance increase 4.1 per cent, with 223.5 million total visitors, according to the Themed Entertainment Association.

This year, according to an August report in the New York Times, NBCUniversal's theme park unit had operating cash flow of $617 million US, a 49 per cent increase from the same period a year ago.

While many blockbuster parks are being built by partners with expertise in the theme park world, the companies that own the brands are much more involved than they once were.

"We really are not just selling the license and running away. We are willing to bring anything to the table, especially in terms of creativity and storytelling, immersion and innovation that are at the core of what we do," said de Rivières. "The challenge is to make all this work together and make sure we don't lose Ubisoft values." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RETAIL

Researchers find key insights on shopping

Rude salesclerks can improve retail sales. Consumers spend more time looking at products close to their feet than they do at products stacked high on a shelf. And retail therapy? It's real, but there are reasons you might want to avoid it.

So says the consumer research that provides surprising insights into why we buy. Researchers spend a lot of time studying how and why we shop. Their findings, which are published in the Journal of Consumer Research, offer a glimpse into what's going on in your head as you reach for your wallet.

PRICE FEELS RIGHT
Researchers say rounded numbers encourage people to rely on feelings when evaluating a product.

Should the Devil sell Prada?

Being treated badly by sales clerks in luxury stores can actually increase a person's desire to buy, according to research conducted by Morgan K. Ward of Southern Methodist University and Darren W. Dahl at the University of British Columbia.

"Rejection encourages people to elevate their perceptions of their rejecters and strengthens their predilection to affiliate with them," said the researchers.

Top or Bottom Shelf?

Product placement is practically an obsession in the retail industry, especially in the grocery sector, where shelves on the ends of aisles and shelves at eye level command premiums.

Consumers pay attention to different aspects of products depending on whether they are looking down or up, according to researchers Anneleen Van Kerckhove, Maggie Geuens, and Iris Vermeir, of Ghent University.

Retail Therapy is Real

A six-year study of 2,500 consumers found that loneliness is likely to lead to materialism and that singles are lonelier than other consumers and shop as a form of retail therapy, according to Tilburg University researcher Rik Pieters. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RING IN THE NEW YEAR
BY MAKING FUN OF LAST YEAR
AIR FARCE new years eve
AIR FARCE NEW YEAR'S EVE 8
RON JAMES FAST FORWARD
RON JAMES: FAST FORWARD 9
22 MINUTES
22 MINUTES COUNTS DOWN TO MIDNIGHT
11:30
TONIGHT

metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Thursday, December 31, 2015

EMMA TEITEL: ON NOT BUYING INTO NEW YEAR'S HYPE

On Dec. 31, stay in. Don't go anywhere. Light a fire, turn on the news and watch Torontonians freeze their butts off at Nathan Phillips Square — and congratulate yourself on being sensible for once.

The earliest recorded New Year's celebration was approximately 4,000 years ago in ancient Babylon.

Revellers of the pagan ritual known as "Akitu" rang in the new year by, among other things, forcing their king to submit before Marduk, the god of water, vegetation, magic and judgment. The high priests then stripped the king of his ceremonial dress and slapped him, hard, upside the head.

The moral of this story? You could be ruler of an empire, rich in wives and treasure, feared and revered by men and women across the land, and New Year's would still be a bust.

In fact, New Year's Eve is almost always a bust. In a modern urban context the holiday doesn't (usually) involve ritual sacrifice or submission before a vengeful deity, but something arguably far worse: $150 for a prix fixe menu at a crappy restaurant that includes a piece of rubbery chicken and a tiny glass of Champagne; an overpriced Uber to and from said restaurant, and a $50 cover at a bar — any bar. (It could have zero working toilets and cockroach-infested beer taps, but if it's Dec. 31 you might as well be drinking at the Four Seasons as far as your wallet is concerned.)

You probably won't get slapped upside the head by ancient Babylonian priest partying in downtown Toronto but come New Year's Day, you will have a throbbing headache all the same.

I'd like to offer a solution to the many deficiencies of New Year's Eve. I propose that the holiday be moved to the end of August.

And to what end? To ring in a new year that feels and looks in every way like the old one? The only major change January brings is an uptick in Seasonal Affective Disorder, snowstorms and, contrary to popular belief, overeating. According to a study from 2014, people actually purchase more food after the holidays — not less.

Now that I have thoroughly depressed you, I'd like to offer a solution to the many deficiencies of New Year's Eve. I propose that the holiday be moved to the end of August, when the seasons actually start to change, kids go back to school, and darkness doesn't shroud the Earth at 4 p.m. Imagine that: a New Year's Eve commemorating refreshing, positive transformation — leaves changing colours, a new fall jacket — as opposed to holiday weight gain and even colder weather. But in the event that this annual rescheduling is not possible (and somehow I highly doubt it is) I've come up with another, simpler idea.

On Dec. 31, stay in. Don't go anywhere. Even if you are in your early 20s and the prospect of drinking legally at a bar still excites you, stay home and eat Cheetos in your parents' living room. Light a fire, turn on the news and watch Torontonians freeze their butts off at Nathan Phillips Square — and congratulate yourself on being sensible for once. Invite your best friends over and watch the critically panned 2011 romantic comedy, New Year's Eve — starring, among countless others, Zac Efron, Bon Jovi, Sarah Jessica Parker and Ludacris — and marvel at how even though the movie sucks colossally, it still beats going out to a crowded club. Make New Year's resolutions at 11:30 p.m. (thou shall not drink in 2016) and break them at the stroke of midnight.

But most of all try — if you can — to shed the expectation of fun. Because that, after all, is the crux of the New Year's problem, the reason the holiday has disappointed humanity since the dawn of time. It is the King of Party Pressure and the King of Party Discontent because, despite all the hype and anxiety around the event, the reason for celebrating is a hollow one. At a wedding, birthday party, gay pride parade, or even the funeral of a much beloved relative who died very old and lived a full and happy life, there is something or someone to rejoice in.

But New Year's?

The celebration of a single year is either vague (what happened again?) or, if you've had a rough 12 months, daunting. For the person who doesn't have someone to embrace when the clock strikes midnight, or who didn't get that promotion or reconcile with that friend in 2015, the holiday is like Yom Kippur with confetti: an official prompt to dwell on one's mistakes, regrets, and loneliness, though not in a temple built for quiet contemplation, but in a crowded bar rife with pressure to put on a happy face.

My advice: don't party on, like you did last year and the year before. Get in your PJs, phone a few friends, and party in.

THE MICROTREND: Pickled foods for better moods

If you want to kick off the New Year in a good mood, get pickled. We're talking fermented foods. You name it — kimchi, kefir, kombucha, koji — these foods are not only on the tip of trendsetters' tongues, but in their guts. Health-conscious foodies are keen on the benefits. Fermentation produces good bacteria that beat out bad bacteria in your belly. One of those bacteria is Lactobacilli. Found in yogurt and 1000-fold in kimchi, this probiotic makes your tummy happy (and it's responsible for the tell-tale tartness of things like sauerkraut). Another of the probiotics in pickled foods is Bifidobacteria. A Harvard-led study this year revealed that in combination, these two bacteria are mind-altering in the best way: reducing depression, anger and anxiety in healthy adults. Peter Piper was onto something. SOURCE: THE TELEGRAPH

Emma Teitel is a national columnist for the Toronto Star. She has been a front-of-the-book columnist for Maclean's magazine for the past four years, focusing on a wide range of subjects including women's issues and popular culture. She won the National Magazine Awards gold award for columns in 2013.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Year-end lists: A relic of a time when analysis wasn't a constant

I'll give editors this much: late December is a tough time to fill pages.

Staffing is low and governments are on holiday. Sure, terrorists keep attacking and there's a hockey game or two, but content is generally in short supply.

Some welcome, then, the "most wonderful time of the year: year-end list-making season!" to quote an editor friend.

But I'd really rather not.

I have nothing against astute analysis, and it's not a bad idea to look back in hopes of understanding where we're going. But most year-end lists aren't worth the click, let alone the newsprint. They're informative for anyone in a coma for the last year, and no one else.

They collect the shiny celebrity moments from the past, the biggest news stories and the top political blunders, and hope you won't notice that you knew all this information already, because the same reporters covered those stories in a dozen ways when they were actually news.

"2015 proved deadly for many people around the world," helpfully proclaims one headline about 2015's natural disasters.

And "epic" as it may have been, Jose Baustia's bat flip was not a top "10 defining moments that changed Canada in 2015."

Another go-to is the "stories we/you missed" — a list that helpfully underlines a news company's failure to properly cover an important issue, while covering it in a soundbite, thus negating the need to actually report it out.

Of course, the end of the year isn't all about lists. The Globe and Toronto Star have been running reflections from reporters that function as part analysis, part personal essay. The articles explore global stories or trends via the perspective of someone who's spent the past year covering the issue, and while they still feel contrived to fill space on a slow day, they fill it well.

Even so, each year-end effort feels like a relic of the time when analysis wasn't already a constant. These days every news event is followed swiftly by dozens of think pieces dissecting what it means, to whom, and to what end.

In fact, the news and its subjective offshoots are so pervasive, there's an entire ironic genre of articles on how to tune out and unplug from the news.

As 2015 winds down, the last thing many of us need is a reminder of all that we've been inundated with the year before.

I don't need to be reminded of the stupidest people of 2015, or the top-grossing artists, or the best photos of Trudeau's chin.

It happened, we obsessed over it, and it's time to move on. Because it's (blessedly almost) 2016.

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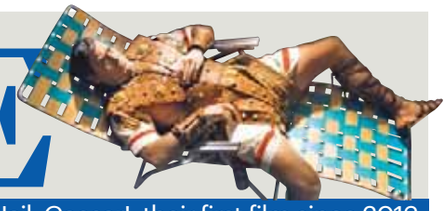

New trailer unleashed for Coen brothers' Hail, Caesar!, their first film since 2013

MOVIE

Director, stars spill on the wintery western

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Hollywood

Fightin' words from The Hateful Eight

ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

With his eighth film, the gonzo western The Hateful Eight, director Quentin Tarantino makes what might be the most quintessentially Tarantino film yet, full of fast-paced dialogue and gallons of blood. And its frontier, a post-Civil War setting, was paramount. "I like masking whatever I want to say in the guise of genre," Tarantino says. "I think there's no other genre that deals with America better in a subtextual way than a western being made in the different decades."

A major factor in bringing this story to life was the use of large-format 70mm film — generally used for sweeping panoramas. But Tarantino was more interested in its applications for interiors — especially Minnie's Haberdashery, the claustrophobic cabin where his titular eight scoffalaws take refuge during a blizzard. "If the film isn't suspenseful — i.e., the pressure-cooker situation of what's going on in the movie, the threat of violence — if the temperature isn't put up a notch every scene or so, then the movie's going to be boring. It's not going to work," Tarantino says. "And I actually felt like the big format would put you in Minnie's Haberdashery. You are amongst those characters."

Samuel L. Jackson (Maj. Marquis Warren): "Quentin and I have conversations about what I say, and I don't just willy-nilly change things," Jackson, who has appeared in almost all of Tarantino's films, says of working with the filmmaker's signature dialogue. "If I want to say something else I'll go to him and we'll talk about it, and he'll say, 'OK' or he'll say, 'No, leave it the way I wrote it.' The rest of these motherf—ers have to say exactly what he wrote."

Kurt Russell (John Ruth): Russell first joined the project when it was a simple staged script reading for charity in L.A., but he was hooked early. "And then I found out we were going to be doing this at a theatre with 1,600 seats for charity. I thought, 'OK, this is good,'" Russell says. "It was kind of special. There was a lot of energy in the theatre. People were excited."

Jennifer Jason Leigh (Daisy Domergue): Tarantino knows that some people have a problem with how Leigh's ruthless criminal character is treated, but he's not listening. "I'm sure some people might be uncomfortable about the violence that is handed out to Jennifer's character," Tarantino says. "The way this story works is I have trapped these characters and anything can happen to them. What? I'm going to make it that for seven of these characters anything can happen to them, but when it comes to this eighth character, I have to protect her because she's a woman? No, I'm not going to think like that."

Walton Goggins (Chris Mannix): From an actor's perspective, this is like panning for gold in the Gold Rush days in California, the Justified star says of getting to say Tarantino's dialogue. "I read this stuff 300 times to make sure I had it known, and there was one day where Quentin gave me a monologue, a whole page of Quentin Tarantino dialogue to do later that day. It just freaked me out and brought me down. I was like, 'F—, I don't f—ing have this.' And that night it was the last thing that we shot, and even then I'm just freaking out, and Quentin looks at me and goes, 'You got this.'"

Demián Bichir (Bob): "I just had the best seat in the house from Day One," Bichir says of teaming up with the director. "You need a crazy director, a free director, a director who's not afraid of taking risks to help get you where you want to go."

Tim Roth (Oswaldo Mobray): "It was kind of a weird sensation to be one of the old boys coming in. And I've had a long break, as I haven't been back since Pulp Fiction or Four Rooms," Roth says. "So I didn't know the new version of how he filmed, and the kind of atmosphere on set that he encouraged. It was all brand-new for me, so it was almost in a sense like coming to Quentin fresh again."

Michael Madsen (Joe Gage): "At least Tim Roth and I didn't get stuck together this time," Madsen says of re-teaming with his old co-star. "Tim and I embraced each other on the set of Reservoir Dogs and we both had so much fake blood on our bodies that we were stuck together. We were stuck together like more than we wanted to be. It was like the hug that lasted a little too long, and they actually had to use a garden hose to separate us."

Bruce Dern (Gen. Sandy Smithers): "I don't think I've ever said this before, but this is the first movie I've ever done where I felt privileged to lend a hand, because that's what you do for him," Dern says of working with Tarantino for the first time. "He expects the people that he brings to do what he hired them to do and not act and be somebody else. When you go to work for him, everybody on the set knows you have a chance to go to the playoffs. But what you don't know is that what you're going to end up with in this one is an opera, because the guy made an opera. And just to be a part of that? I mean, I couldn't sit through a f—ing opera, but …"

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Doctor wanted to 'advance football'

CONCUSSION

Pathologist exposed long term effects of head trauma

Will Smith plays forensic pathologist Dr. Bennet Omalu in Concussion. "When I met Bennet and went through the science, I was terrified as a parent," Smith said. "My son played football for four years and I had no idea this was an issue." CONTRIBUTED

While the new Will Smith film Concussion may lead some to question their support of the NFL, the forensic pathologist who first drew attention to the dangers of repeated head trauma said he wanted his discoveries to help the sport.

Concussion tells the true story of Dr. Bennet Omalu who stumbled upon an insidious brain disorder affecting football players that began in 2002 with an autopsy on former Pittsburgh Steelers centre Mike Webster.

"I had this hunger in me to use my knowledge to become a voice for the voiceless, to make a difference, just like Will Smith," Omalu said, adding that he wanted to "advance football."

Smith said the script enlightened him about the dangerous effects of multiple concussions.

Omalu studied the brains of NFL players who had died under dubious circumstances, including former NFL players Justin Strzelczyk, Terry Long, and Andre Waters, who are depicted in the film. Strzelczyk was involved in a head-on collision on the wrong side of the highway evading police; Waters shot himself in the head; and Terry Long died from drinking anti-freeze.

His study, in conjunction with the University of Pittsburgh's pathology department, led to the discovery that the former players were suffering from Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy, or CTE, an asymptomatic brain disease. The effects of the incurable disease don't show up until later in life and manifest as psychotic episodes, dementia, and suicide.

CTE had been researched previously in boxers and it had been identified in soccer and rugby players, though Omalu's work first linked it to American football players and has sparked broad discussions about player safety. After researching the role and learning more about the condition, Smith remains a football fan. Yet, he feels different about the game.

"I wanted to be a part of it just to deliver information to parents and to players because if I didn't know, I felt a lot of other people didn't know," Smith said.

David Morse, who plays Webster in the film, found the role a challenge.

"(Mike Webster) was adored by people, the city of Pittsburgh, but what we see is a man at the end of his life with dementia," Morse said. "He's gluing his teeth in with Super Glue, tasering himself."

Webster's problems progressed after his 1997 induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. He went on a downward spiral, dying in 2002 at age 50.

Morse admits playing Webster affected him.

"I'm fascinated by the game, but I can't watch it the same way," he said.

On Wednesday, Sony Pictures issued an invitation to team owners, players and their families to see Concussion for free — an offer Tennessee Titans safety Michael Griffin said he was taking them up on it as he'd planned to see the movie anyway. " I think it's going to be a good movie, but it may play a big part throughout the NFL," he said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **He's just in a kind of hell at the end of his life**
>
> Actor David Morse, who played NFL player Mike Webster in Concussion

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Nurse Jackie's 'good' end

THE SHOW: Nurse Jackie, season seven, episode 12 (Showtime/TMN)
THE MOMENT: The Last Words

Nurse Jackie delivers a finale befitting of the series. CONTRIBUTED

In this series finale, it seems that Jackie (the great Edie Falco) is finally getting her life together. Her hospital, All Saints, is closing.

But she's landed a better job at Bellevue. Her daughter is speaking to her again. She and her boyfriend are making it work. Now her staff is holding a final blowout, and it looks like happy endings all around.

Until Jackie heads into the bathroom with a bag of street-grade heroin she found on a patient.

She snorts three huge lines, collapses. As her eyes roll into her head, she sees her protégé, Zoey (Merritt Wever), kneeling beside her.

"You're good, Jackie," Zoey says, not quite meaning it, but trying to keep her alive. "You're good."

The final moments of a beloved series are crucial — they can satisfy you, or make you feel terrible about the hours of your life you've invested.

The best ones feel inevitable, as if the show has crescendoed to the only place it possibly could — the way Six Feet Under fast-forwards to the deaths of all its characters, or The Sopranos cuts to black.

When they don't work, you feel betrayed: How dare you lure me into the mysteries of Lost or Twin Peaks, and then rip me off?

Nurse Jackie's last words — and Zoey's ambiguous delivery of them — feel exactly right. Jackie's an addict to the end.

Whether she's also "good" is the show's central conundrum. And Zoey has been, from the beginning, Jackie's moral compass.

Mission accomplished.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

TV BRIEF

Bordertown not Trumped

Let's get one thing straight: Donald Trump is not a consultant to Bordertown.

This new Fox animated comedy does target issues like immigration, the drug war and the embattled American Dream. But it's been in development since 2007, long before Trump's entry last June into the presidential race.

The series' premiere (Sunday, 9:30 p.m. EST) deals with a toughest-in-the-nation anti-immigration bill passed by Mexifornia, the U.S. desert community where Bordertown is set. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The new comedy Bordertown tackles stereotypes. HANDOUT

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How to make it to the final countdown. ISTOCK

Your New Year's Eve survival guide

We can all stop pretending: with the exception of Dick Clark, nobody has ever genuinely enjoyed themselves on New Year's Eve. It's overhyped, expensive and a time when revellers are permitted to reflect upon the disappointments of the past year. Also, you're never going to find a cab. Just follow this guide to making your New Year's Eve as tolerable as possible.

The problem: your outfit
You want to look festive and attractive, but it's cold outside.
The solution: As with every winter, metallics are very "in" this season. Do what you can to incorporate them into your ensemble. For example, a flirty little silver dress layered on top of two hoodies and a pair of ski pants. Or a crisp shirt and metallic tie combo thrown over six layers of thermal underwear. If time and budget permit, add gold or silver glitter to your Sorels. Who ordered the festive special?

The problem: libations
Hauling around glass bottles on icy streets is something of a health and safety hazard. The bottle of scotch for the host, the bottle of wine for yourself to sip, the bubbly to share with friends at midnight... it's too much! And New Year's Eve parties feel too classy to drink out of more easily transportable aluminum cans. What to do?
The solution: Wrap the host's gift up using this newspaper. Chug a beer in the shower.

The problem: midnight
Midnight comes with its own slew of anxieties. If you're coupled, will you be able to find your significant other in time to lay one on them when the clock strikes 12? What if they're deep in conversation about the Franco-Prussian War and you don't want to disturb them, so you awkwardly hang by the shoe pile at the front door? If you're single, will you find someone to kiss? What if there's nobody to kiss? Honestly, is there ever anybody to kiss?
The solution: Appoint yourself party DJ for the final moments of 2015. Delight attendees with Europe's The Final Countdown. Welcome to 2016, party hero!

The problem: transportation
Getting anywhere in the winter is a pain in the butt. Uber will have surge pricing and available cabs are nowhere to be found. Unless one of your friends is a designated driver (saint!), taking the TTC or walking to your destination are the only options.
The solution: Aggressively befriend everyone in your neighbourhood to ensure a stream of party invites mere blocks away. Better yet, throw your own party! Microwave some popcorn and go to bed at 10 p.m. Congratulations! You just won New Year's Eve! TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Miracle Mop inventor lifts the curtain on film

INTERVIEW

Mangano talks making of and moments that inspired Joy

So then there was that time that Joy Mangano, Miracle Mop inventor and home shopping entrepreneur, was sitting at a meeting wedged between Jennifer Lawrence and Robert De Niro. And De Niro leaned over and said: "Joy, I have to talk to you. I have such a great idea for a product!"

Mangano continues the story, laughing: "And Jennifer is on other side and she says, 'Bob, you can't ask her that. Everybody asks her that!'"

She won't say what the product idea was, but allows that when things calm down with the movie, she and Bob will probably get around to discussing it again.

Late-night meetings with movie stars — oh yes, Bradley Cooper was there, too — isn't what Mangano ever envisioned, but life changed a few years back when she got a call telling her of plans for Joy. The movie, directed by David O. Russell, tells the inspirational tale of a tenacious Long Island mother who could barely support her family and then had one great idea — that self-wringing mop — that launched an empire.

But Mangano, 59, thinks the movie — on which she serves as executive producer — has a much more universal message that applies equally to women and men: "Be courageous to do what you're passionate about and know instinctively you should be doing, because if you don't, you'll never have that achievement that you know is within you," she says.

Mangano sat down last week to discuss her life and the film. The interview has been edited for clarity and length.

How did you first hear about plans for Joy?
The telephone rings and it's a producer (who Mangano met years earlier), and he says, 'Hi, Joy, we're here because we're going to make a movie about your life story.' And then David called, and I remember it was in the afternoon, and he said 'I just want to talk for a few minutes,' and when we hung up it was absolutely pitch black out. And that was the beginning of many hundreds of hours of talking. He knows more about me than anybody in the world — I would never need therapy!

What do you think he found unique about your story?
I've always had this inner resiliency. I grew up in an Italian family in an era where it was, 'When are you gonna get married and have children?'

> **I wish everybody could be able to find that space within themselves. I feel like I grew wings when that happened!**
> Joy Mangano

And throughout life, I was always taking care of everyone around me. And through the course of that, I lost ... I think we lose what we are. And then to find that again, and to go against all odds and have the courage to keep doing that — I wish everybody could be able to find that space within themselves. I feel like I grew wings when that happened!

The movie is based on you but also some other businesswomen. Is it accurate about your life?
I will say that I severely inspire the movie. How many women do you know who invented the Miracle Mop?

In the movie, Joy goes to QVC with her mop but it doesn't sell — until she insists that she herself go on camera.
Yes, it was my own determination to say: 'Put me on with that mop, and the mop will sell.'

So now you're making a new version of the Miracle Mop?
Yes and I can promise you, the only thing harder than inventing is reinventing. I was possessed to keep this mop at the original price — $19.95 — and I promise when you see it, you'll see why I say it should be $50. I'm telling you, you're gonna sing and dance with this mop — even if you don't buy it!

What do you think of Jennifer Lawrence playing you?
What an honour, right? She has one of the wittiest minds. Within 10 minutes we were finishing each other's sentences. When we met — I don't know that I've told anybody this, but she looks at me, and my (three adult) children, and says, 'I've never seen a family as close as you all are. It reminds me of my family.' That's something a 25 year old doesn't always pick up on.

What do you most want people to take away from the film?
I've had so many people saying afterward, 'There's something I was going to do and I never did, and now I'm gonna do it.' THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Entrepreneur Joy Mangano produced a new film based on her life. She says more than anything else, she wants viewers to feel inspired after seeing the film. "I feel like people are going to want to climb mountains when they get out of this movie," she says. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

7 WORST FILMS OF 2015

Here are seven movies that we really, really hated in a year that yielded a strong crop MATT PRIGGE/METRO NEW YORK

1 Me and Earl and the Dying Girl

It doesn't think it's evil. It doesn't think it's another White People Problems movie. And yet, it is. Following a sarcastic high school loner (Thomas Mann), this movie plays like the dying gasp of a white dude raised to believe he was the centre of the planet and realizing he's not. That the film is technically well-made and well-acted makes it even worse when the only major black character talks about almost nothing but "dem titties." This movie is some f—ed-up repugnant s—.

2 The Cobbler

Writer-director Tom McCarthy ended 2015 by releasing Spotlight, which may win the best picture Oscar. But he started the year with The Cobbler. It casts Adam Sandler as a depressed cobbler who learns he can change into people by putting on their shoes. The twist ending is the most jaw-dropping thing I've seen at the movies all year.

3 Entourage

Movies allow one to see how others live. To watch the Entourage movie is to see the world through the eyes of a filthy rich bro. The further adventures of Adrien Grenier's superstar actor and his even worse boys is a plotless wallow in pure wealth. It's everything that's bad about America, but on the other hand, at least it's not boring. (Except it kind of is.)

4 Pixels

Adam Sandler is not in a good spot. When he makes his usual (Grown Ups 2, Blended) he hits new lows. Even when he goes indie (Men, Women & Children, The Cobbler) he burrows lower. He tried to go the big budget blockbuster, battling alien forces that take the shape of '80s arcade games. But even fighting Pac-Man or watching Q*bert urinate couldn't wake him up.

5 Avengers: Age of Ultron

Same-y as they can get, we like Marvel. But this was bound to happen eventually: Faced with too many characters and too many ancillary films to set up, even Joss Whedon completely whiffed, churning out a noisy block of just stuff happening, and sometimes things. It was a joyless din.

6 Rock the Kasbah

How do you make Bill Murray annoying? This Afghanistan romp found a way. A riff on the very good Ishtar, it sent him to the Middle East to indulge in some light political satire and some heavy Ugly Americanism. The low point of Murray's career isn't the movie where he romps about the U.S. on an elephant; it's him annoying Afghanis with a rendition of Smoke on the Water.

7 Stonewall

This should have been a slam dunk: the maker of stupid, outsized, ensemble blockbusters like Independence Day and The Day After Tomorrow takes on the in-earnest birth of America's gay rights movement. And yet Roland Emmerich's latest is boring, stiff and laughable. When our hero (Jeremy Irvine) screams "Gay power!" during the anti-climax, all you can do is snicker.

New year means great new books

RELEASES

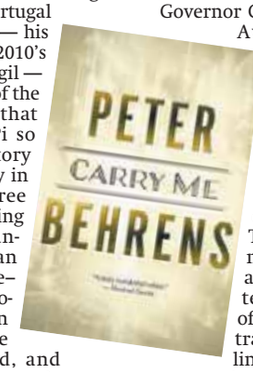
Some of 2016's best reads are coming out in January

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

January used to be a considered a dead zone for publishing, but no longer. Some of 2016's most anticipated titles are also some of its first releases.

If you've already torn through your holiday reads, here are five new books worth seeking out in the early new year.

Yann Martel's The High Mountains of Portugal (Knopf Canada) — his first novel since 2010's Beatrice and Virgil — promises more of the magic realism that made Life of Pi so beloved. The story covers a century in the lives of three families, following a mysterious ancient journal, an Agatha Christie–obsessed pathologist whose own wife may have been murdered, and an Ottawa senator who goes to live in his ancestral Portuguese village, accompanied by a rescued chimpanzee.



Hello world, Lita Ford's your wild girl in Living Like a Runaway (HarperCollins Canada). The lead guitarist of the seminal 1970s all-female band, the Runaways, opens up about her musical career, motherhood and escape from a domineering husband. The book has already been delayed several times, much to the disappointment of her loyal fans, but the sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll will be worth the wait.

Governor General Literary Award winner Peter Behrens (The Law of Dreams) returns with the historical 20th-century epic Carry Me, published by House of Anansi Press. This life-long romance between a baron's daughter and the son of a yacht skipper travels from Berlin nightclubs to a summer in the Isle of Wight, under the looming threat of the Second World War.

Joy Fielding proves once again why she is the master of the thriller with She's Not There (Doubleday Canada). Fifteen years after the disappearance of her infant daughter during a vacation in Mexico, Carole Shipley receives a phone call from a teenage girl claiming to be the missing child.

The disturbing call plunges Carole right back into the cold case, with consequences that hit a little too close to home.

If you haven't touched the Bard since high school, Penguin Random House's Hogarth Shakespeare series is the perfect reentry to the classics. To commemorate the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death, internationally celebrated authors have reinterpreted some of his most famous plays as prose. British author Howard Jacobson kicks off 2016 with Shylock is My Name, a contemporary telling of The Merchant of Venice, followed by Margaret Atwood's The Tempest, and others by Jo Nesbo, Gillian Flynn, and more.

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

New TTC fares January 3, 2016

Fares (Effective January 3, 2016)	Adult	Student (13 – 19 years*)	Senior (65 years and over*)
Cash	$3.25	$2.00	
Tokens/Tickets	$2.90 minimum 3 tokens / $8.70	$1.95 tickets sold in multiples of 5 / $9.75	
PRESTO	$2.90	$1.95	
Weekly Pass	$42.25	$33.00	
Monthly Metropass	$141.50	$112.00	

Child (12 years of age or under)	Post-Secondary Student*	Group / Day Pass	Greater Toronto Area Weekly Pass
Free	Monthly Metropass $112.00	$12.00	$61.00

Get POP Proof-of-Payment Pay your fare and get a transfer

* Photo identification may be requested for Students, 16 and over, Post-Secondary Students and Seniors.

metro HOME

Your essential daily news

'Serenity' now: Showcase one of Pantone's colours of the year with this Smeg toaster

A big year in condo launches

CONDO TRENDS

Look forward to transformed athletes' village, mega-tower in iconic corner

Duncan McAllister
For Metro Canada

As we head into the new year, Metro looks back at some of Toronto's biggest condo announcements during 2015: the whirlwind year of the condo.

Fashionable team

Remember when style icon Karl Lagerfeld came to town last February? In his first visit to Toronto, Lagerfeld announced his participation in a new midtown condo complex set to occupy the site of the former Art Shoppe showroom at Yonge and Eglinton.

Lagerfeld, one of the world's most recognized fashion legends, will collaborate with the architectural team and interior designers Cecconi Simone to design the residential lobby spaces at the Art Shoppe Lofts + Condos.

Post-Games

We all remember the summer of the Toronto 2015 Pan American/Parapan American Games, held at the site of the West Don Lands community. During the Games, the athletes' village hosted approximately 10,000 athletes and officials from 41 countries.

Karl Lagerfeld inspects a model suite at the Art Shoppe Lofts + Condos in February. COURTESY BRANDON COMMUNICATIONS

The 32 hectares of land along the Don River has now been transformed, once again, into Toronto's newest urban community. Its cafés, galleries and retail stores aim to galvanize the community and provide a range of options for shopping, dining and playing.

The Canary District currently features two condominium residences: the Canary District and the Canary Park, which have now been turned over to private residences.

Menkes' One York/Harbour Plaza project, circled above, is currently under construction in the South Core district. MENKES DEVELOPMENTS LTD.

South Core

Toronto's South Core district has undergone massive changes this year. The new neighbourhood will see the extension of the financial district southwards towards the lake. This exciting new live-work-play community is currently a hive of construction activity.

Spearheading the development is a massive, mixed-use project by the Minto Group that consists of One York, a new office tower, and two residential condo towers comprising Harbour Plaza. The three buildings occupy a common podium with commercial and retail space.

Yonge and Bloor

In a surprise announcement last spring, Mizrahi Developments announced a proposal to construct an 80-storey mega-tower at the site of the venerable Stollerys clothing store at Yonge and Bloor. The One, as it is named, will feature a distinctive exoskeletal structure designed by high-profile British architect Norman Foster.

By the waterfront

A ceremony in March marked the kickoff of the Daniels Waterfront — City of the Arts, a $700,000,000 mixed-use community occupying the site of the former Guvernment nightclub that promises to be the gateway to Toronto's East Bayfront district.

At 90 storeys, The One will be the second-tallest building in Canada next to the CN Tower. COURTESY MIZRAHI DEVELOPMENTS

The East Bayfront projects will transform an underutilized and quasi-industrial stretch of lands along Queen's Quay, east of Jarvis Street.

Tridel's Aquavista and Aqualina at Bayside condominiums are already underway at the foot of Parliament Street.

BSIDE AT MINTO WESTSIDE

CONTRIBUTED

MEET THE CONDO

Right Bside the entertainment hub

Project overview

Bside at Minto Westside is the second phase of Minto Westside. The building promises to offer design-forward suites from a price point rarely seen in the downtown market. The west tower will include new floorplan designs with great views of the city.

Location and transit

Situated at Front and Bathurst, Bside is strategically located close to both the city's financial district and King West's entertainment district. A network of streetcars runs directly by the residences' front door, and it's a quick walk to Billy Bishop airport.

Building amenities

The resort-inspired Plunge Social pool bar is a great elixir for city summer heat. With indoor and outdoor lounges, residents can take in Toronto's best views from the ninth floor year-round. On the second floor, the sophisticated YTZ lounge opens onto two landscaped courtyards.

In the neighbourhood

The building is steps away from the waterfront, trendy shops and some of Toronto's top restaurants. Families will have access to the largest urban school, community, and daycare facility in Toronto, being developed immediately nearby.

NEED TO KNOW

What: Bside at Minto Westside
Builder: Minto Communities
Architect: Wallman Architects
Interiors: Burdi Filek
Location: 25 Bathurst St.
Building: A 20-storey building with 323 suites
Sizes: 428 to 930 sq. ft.
Pricing: From the low-$200,000s
Suites: One- and three-bedroom suites
Status: Pre-construction, registration phase
Occupancy: 2019
Sales centre: 25 Bathurst St.
Hours: Monday to Thursday 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Phone: 437-836-8586
Website: bsidecondos.com
Email: westside@minto.com

New Year's bar essentials

I'm sure this far into the holiday season you've seen your share of unorganized bar setups. Don't let your New Year's party be under scrutiny; hire a shirtless bartender and outfit your party with the best bar accessories.

Karl Lohnes
For Metro Canada

1 GLUCKSTEINHOME Trolley Styled Bar Cart
Keep the kitchen island clear and all your bar candy organized. $300, TheBay.com

2 Godinger Hammered Stainless Bar Set
All the materials you will need to show off your mixology skills. $80, BedBathAndBeyond.ca

3 Tom Dixon ARC Corkscrew Pull
Add some designer style to your wine bar. $88, HopsonGrace.com

4 Ralph Lauren 2-Piece Greenwich Double Old-Fashioned Glass Set
A good drink means serving it in a damn-good glass. $95, TheBay.com

5 Carter Muddler
Mash and muddle those garnishes for a truly handmade drink. $18, CrateAndBarrel.com

6 Crabbie's Ginger Beer
Reportedly, a big mainstay for this season's crafty bartenders. $3.60, CrabbiesGingerBeer.com

7 Tartan Crock-Pot Classic Slow Cooker
A great way to keep those hot toddies and ciders warm throughout the party. $28, Walmart.ca

8 Top Shelf Living Set of 9 Whiskey Stones
Let's not water down the issue — no need for ice cubes with these rocks around. $23, Walmart.ca

LEGAL MATTERS

Spouse factor could help you get out of a regrettable deal

Jeffrey Cowan
For Metro Canada

Q: We own a house that is in the middle of a row of homes that a developer is looking at to tear down and put up either townhomes or perhaps a mid-rise condo building. We have been approached by the realtor who is putting the deal together and we have set an offer out there, which much to our surprise was accepted by the builder.

We have since done some research and we've determined that we have received a very low bid. My wife owns the house in her name alone and I wasn't involved in the signing of the agreement of purchase and sale. Now we have second thoughts. Is there any way out of this firm deal?

A: There are provisions in most jurisdictions that the spouse has to consent in writing to these types of transactions, especially if it is the matrimonial home. I am not sure if this is the "out" you are looking for but it goes towards the contract being incomplete. Certainly, if this is a house you live in together, your real estate agent should have made sure they had your written consent to the deal.

Good luck!

REAL ESTATE

What's hot on the market

DUNCAN MCALLISTER

1 NORTH YORK

Now registering: The Village Residences, urban condos at Bayview Village. Visit the sales office at 591 Sheppard Ave. E., in North York.
CONTACT: 647-622-8408, VILLAGERESIDENCES.CA

2 ETOBICOKE

Sales event: The KIP District condos is offering financial incentives for first-time buyers at their westside suites. Check out the sales centre at 5143 Dundas St. W.
CONTACT: 416-207-1919, THEKIPDISTRICT.COM

3 LIBERTY VILLAGE

Now open: Liberty Central on the Lake condominiums phase II. Perfect for first-time buyers. Head over to the presentation centre at 80 Lynn Williams St., in Liberty Village.
CONTACT : 416-537-0047, INFO@LIVEINLIBERTY.COM

metro SPORTS

Bills co-owner Terry Pegula gave coach Rex Ryan and GM Doug Whaley a vote of confidence, saying both will be back in 2016

Raptors climb to 20-win plateau in time for 2016

NBA

DeRozan scores 34 points as Wizards' late run falls short

WEDNESDAY At ACC

94	91
RAPTORS	WIZARDS

DeMar DeRozan poured in 34 points in another superb performance to lift the Toronto Raptors to a 94-91 win over the Washington Wizards on Wednesday.

The victory boosted the Raptors' record to 20-13, marking just the second time in franchise history — the first time was last season — that they've won 20 games before the New Year.

Bismack Biyombo had a game-high 12 rebounds plus 12 points, while Terrence Ross finished with 14 points and Kyle Lowry had 11 for Toronto. Jonas Valanciunas, who missed 17 games with a broken hand and made his first start since Nov. 20, had nine rebounds to go with eight points.

Otto Porter Jr. had 20 points to top Washington (14-16), while John Wall added 19.

It was the Wizards' first trip to Toronto since they embarrassed the Raptors with their four-game sweep in the first round of last season's playoffs, and the Raptors weren't about to play gracious host.

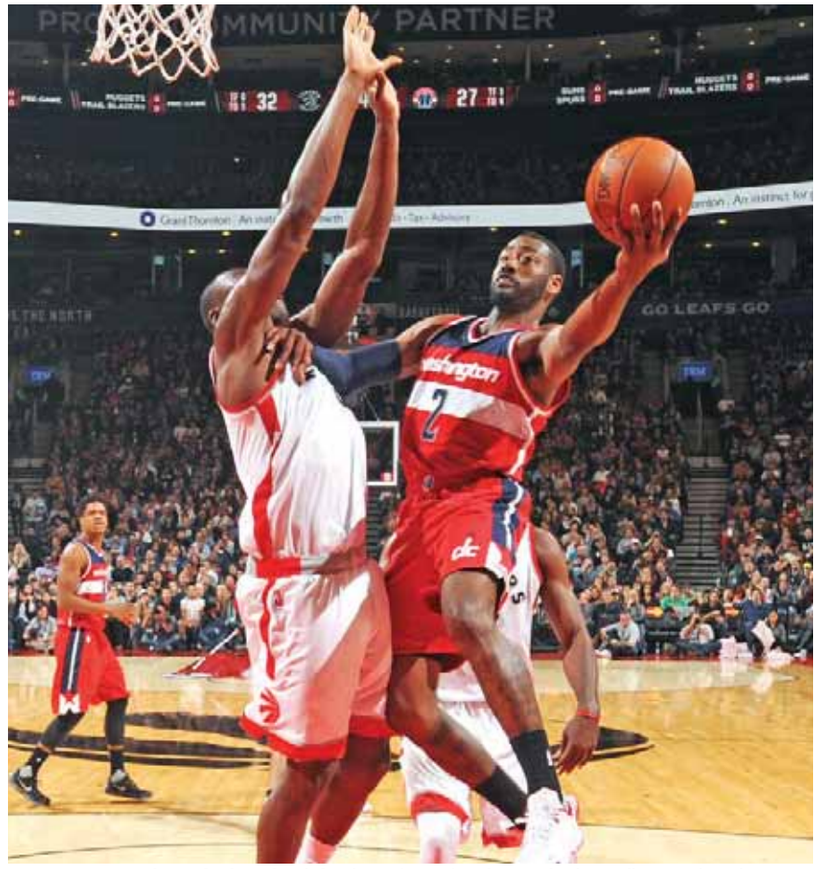
The Raptors, who edged the Wizards 84-82 on a buzzer-beater by Cory Joseph on Nov. 28 in Washington, led virtually from the opening whistle and took a 77-65 advantage into the fourth quarter in front of a capacity crowd of 19,800 at the Air Canada Centre.

The Wizards chipped away at the Raptors' lead in the fourth, and when Wall found Marcin Gortat for an easy dunk with 1:28 to play, it cut Toronto's advantage to just three points. Jared Dudley drilled a three from directly in front of the Raptors' bench to make it a one-point game with 39.5 seconds left, then, with the crowd on its feet, Dudley clanged a second wide-open shot off the rim.

A pair of free throws from Lowry would be the points that clinched the victory, as Wall and Dudley both missed on three-point attempts in the dying seconds.

The night marked another milestone for Raptors coach Dwane Casey, who tied Sam Mitchell for most games coached in franchise history — 345.

The Raptors host the Charlotte Hornets on New Year's Day. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Raptors centre Bismack Biyombo defends against Wizards guard John Wall on Wednesday night. RON TURENNE/NBAE VIA GETTY IMAGES

Maple Leafs goalie Jonathan Bernier makes a save on the Penguins' Kris Letang on Wednesday night in Pittsburgh. GENE J. PUSKAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Leafs outgun Pens in shootout

In Pittsburgh

3	2
LEAFS	PENGUINS

P.A. Parenteau and Peter Holland scored in the shootout to help the Toronto Maple Leafs beat the Pittsburgh Penguins 3-2 on Wednesday night.

Parenteau won it by beating Matt Murray to the glove side with a wrist shot.

David Perron scored for Pittsburgh in the shootout, but Jonathan Bernier stopped Sidney Crosby and Kris Letang. Bernier finished with 39 saves while playing for the second consecutive night.

Dion Phaneuf and Jake Gardiner both scored, and the Maple Leafs rebounded from a 6-3 home loss to the New York Islanders on Tuesday night. Toronto was 0-6-2 in the second game of back-to-backs prior to this win.

Crosby scored his eighth and Chris Kunitz his fifth, and Murray made 34 saves for Pittsburgh.

The Penguins fell to 2-5-1 since hiring Mike Sullivan to replace Mike Johnston as head coach.

James Reimer was supposed to start in goal, but he experienced tightness after relieving Bernier in the blowout against the Islanders. That was Reimer's first action since missing seven games with a groin injury.

Toronto hosts St. Louis on Saturday night before a three-game West Coast swing. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Knicks player shot in kneecap during robbery

New York Knicks player Cleanthony Early was shot in the leg by masked robbers who demanded his "gold" as he left a strip club Wednesday, law enforcement officials said.

Early was leaving CityScapes in Queens with his girlfriend at about 4:30 a.m. in an Uber cab when the vehicle was surrounded by at least two other cars and as many as six men got out, the two officials said. Early handed over two gold chains before he was shot in the right kneecap, the officials said.

Early, 24, was hospitalized in stable condition. The Uber driver and girlfriend were uninjured, and the driver was robbed only of his identification. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Women's hockey game added to Winter Classic

Women's hockey has reached another milestone with its inclusion in the NHL's annual outdoor game, albeit in a limited format.

Les Canadiennes de Montreal of the Canadian Women's Hockey League and the Boston Pride of the new National Women's Hockey League will square off in two 15-minute periods Thursday at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Mass. The NHL recently added the exhibition game to the schedule of events surrounding Friday's Bridgestone Winter Classic between the Montreal Canadiens and Boston Bruins. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadians rally to earn berth in Spengler Cup final

Alexandre Giroux and Cory Conacher helped rally Canada into an improbable Spengler Cup final Wednesday.

Giroux and Conacher scored just over a minute apart to lead Canada to an exciting 6-5 semifinal win over HC Davos and cap an impressive comeback from an early 4-1 deficit.

The Canadians will face HC Lugano in the championship game Thursday. The Swiss side defeated Avtomobilist Yekaterinburg 3-0 in the late semifinal. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fitting in with the Finns

WORLD JUNIORS

Virtanen has family ties to tournament host Finland

The announcer at Helsinki Ice Hall pauses before trying to pronounce the names of Canada's players at the world junior hockey championships.

Except Jake Virtanen's, which he attacks with zeal:

"YAKE VEER-tah-nen."

Virtanen hasn't scored any points at the world junior hockey championship for Canada so far, but he's been an impact player on the ice and a leader in the locker-room as one of four returnees from last year's gold medal-winning team.

He's also been something of a tour guide for his teammates, as his father Rainer emigrated from Finland to Canada as a child. The Virtanens still have family about five hours away from Helsinki, the nation's capital where the world juniors are being held.

"Obviously, I'm fully Canadian but I have that dual citizenship with me and I've got that Finnish blood in me, too," said Virtanen, who was born in New Westminster, B.C., but was raised in nearby Langley and Abbotsford.

As a result, he doesn't quite wrap his tongue around his last name quite like the Finns do, instead going with a more Canadian "Jake VIHR-tan-in." Or just "Verts" to his teammates.

Finnish hockey fans haven't quite adopted him as one of their own, but they recognize the roots of his surname and he has had a large cheering section of family at all of Canada's games at the tournament so far.

"It's a little different," said Virtanen on Tuesday of having a large cheering section despite being so far from Canada. "I did it before when I was here for the under-18s (in 2014) but being in Helsinki with a bigger town, the last time it was in Imatra, it's a little different.

"There's a lot more fans, a lot more media. It's pretty cool, I'm having a lot of fun with it."

Virtanen was a late addition to Canada's world junior roster after the Vancouver Canucks gave him permission to join the team on Dec. 13. The NHL rookie has a goal and three assists in 19 games with Vancouver and has no points in two games with the minor-league Utica Comets.

He's the only player on the world junior team that has regular-season NHL experience.

Virtanen's family is pleased to have the impromptu reunion.

"My dad hasn't been here in a while, so he's happy that the world juniors are here so he come back and have fun here," said Virtanen.

His heritage is never far from his mind, as Virtanen just has to roll up his sleeve to see a large tattoo of the Finnish coat of arms on his right forearm.

"My grandpa loves it," said Virtanen of the tattoo which he got last summer. "I told my grandma I was getting it and she was like 'you don't need any tattoos,' that's what any grandmother would say.

"But my grandpa was real excited. He said 'that's the best looking lion I've ever seen.'"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jake Virtanen has family about a five-hour drive from Helsinki. HEIKKI SAUKKOMAA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Virtanen's tattoo of **Finland's coat of arms.** THE CANADIAN PRESS

ROUNDUP

U.S. 10, Switzerland 1
Auston Matthews scored twice and added two assists to lead the United States to a 10-1 laugher over Switzerland on Wednesday.

The U.S. improved to 2-1 and leapfrogged Canada into second place in Group A.

Finland 8, Slovakia 3
Tournament scoring leader Jesse Puljujarvi had a goal and three assists to lead Finland to an 8-3 rout of Slovakia. Puljujarvi has 10 points in three games.

No. 8

Teemu Selanne skated around the ice at Hartwall Arena in full Olympic gear as his No. 8 jersey was retired by the national team during a pre-game ceremony before Finland faced Slovakia.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Blackwood signs deal with the Devils
The New Jersey Devils announced the signing of Canada goaltender Mackenzie Blackwood to a three-year entry-level contract on Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GETTY IMAGES

Markham's Andre De Grasse has joined Phoenix-based ALTIS, considered one of the world's top track and field programs. EZRA SHAW/GETTY IMAGES

TRACK AND FIELD

De Grasse joins team in Arizona

Andre De Grasse says the opportunity to train with professional athletes and to learn from some of the world's top coaches lured him to Phoenix.

The Canadian sprint sensation has a new home, moving to Arizona this week to train with ALTIS — formerly the World Athletics Center — under Canadian power and sprint coach Stuart McMillan.

"I wanted to move on with my life a little bit and experience the professional side and be with professional athletes, professional coaches," De Grasse said in an ALTIS podcast. "I came to ALTIS on a visit last week, it was amazing. I couldn't believe the type of treatment they get here and I said, 'I think this is the place for me.'

"USC has been really great to me, and the coaches, but it's definitely a time, a period, for me to move on and I need to get ready for the Olympics."

The move comes weeks after the 21-year-old from Markham announced he'd turned pro, signing a historic and lucrative $11.25-million US deal with Puma. He had been training at the University of Southern California while working toward finishing his sociology degree.

ALTIS has over 100 international athletes in various track and field disciplines, and a crew of some 35 coaches, therapists and staff members.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

"I'm really loving my training, it's my second day of training, and I already love it."
Andre De Grasse

LA LIGA

Barça's year for the ages ends with win

Lionel Messi scored in his 500th match for Barçelona to help the Catalan club ease past Real Betis 4-0 on Wednesday and ensure they kept the lead of the Spanish league to conclude a superb year.

Before kickoff Andres Iniesta paraded Barça's recently won Club World Cup trophy, its fifth title won in 2015. The four goals — two by Luis Suarez, one by Messi and an own goal by Heiko Westermann — took Barça's 2015 tally to 180, bettering Madrid's milestone of 178 from 2014.

"It will be complicated to better this, but like always we will try to do so."
Lionel Messi

"It was a spectacular year and we wanted to finish it in the same way," Messi said.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FIFA IN BRIEF

U.S. investigators obtain banking documents
Swiss authorities handed over bank documents related to the FIFA corruption scandal to their American counterparts Wednesday.

The U.S. Federal Office of Justice said the package of evidence will be used in the criminal investigation against several soccer officials suspected of bribery and other offences.

The Swiss authorities also said they froze $80 million in assets in 13 bank accounts. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PREMIER LEAGUE

LFC gains ground in hunt for Europe

Christian Benteke scored a winning goal for the second straight game as Liverpool beat Sunderland 1-0 Wednesday to stay in the hunt for Champions League qualification.

Benteke pounced on an Adam Lallana pass and finished into the bottom corner, just 22 seconds into the second half. Benteke earned Liverpool a 1-0 victory over Leicester on Saturday, too.

Liverpool climbed to seventh in the standings, tied for points with Manchester United but behind its great rival on goal difference, and five points off the top four with exactly half the season gone. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Adam Lallana gets a Christian Benteke ride on Wednesday in Sunderland. GETTY IMAGES

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RECIPE Beef and Mushroom Stew

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Can dinner feel like a hug? If so, this is the bear hug of meals. A slow simmer makes the beef ultra tender.

Ready in
Prep time: 1 hour 20 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 2 lb stewing beef
- 2 Tbsp flour
- Salt and pepper
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 onions, diced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 lb mushrooms, halved or quartered, depending on size
- 2 large carrots, diced
- 2 sprigs fresh thyme
- 1/3 cup tomato paste
- 1/2 cup white or red wine (optional)
- 4 cups beef broth

Directions
1. Shake flour out onto a plate and season with salt and pepper. Dredge meat through the flour.
2. Pull out a big pot or dutch oven and warm up your olive oil in it over medium heat. Working in batches, brown your meat. Place the cooked meat on a clean plate as you work and set aside.
3. Add onion and garlic in the pot to sauté and soften, about 3 minutes. Now toss in the mushrooms and thyme and cook for another 5 minutes. Add tomato paste and stir it so everything gets coated. Let cook for a couple of minutes.
4. Add the wine. Use a wooden spoon to scrape the bottom of the pot to loosen up all that caramelized beefy goodness. Add your stock and the beef, bring it to a simmer, cover and simmer for about an hour. Now add your carrots and cook about 10 minutes. Serve over mashed potatoes.

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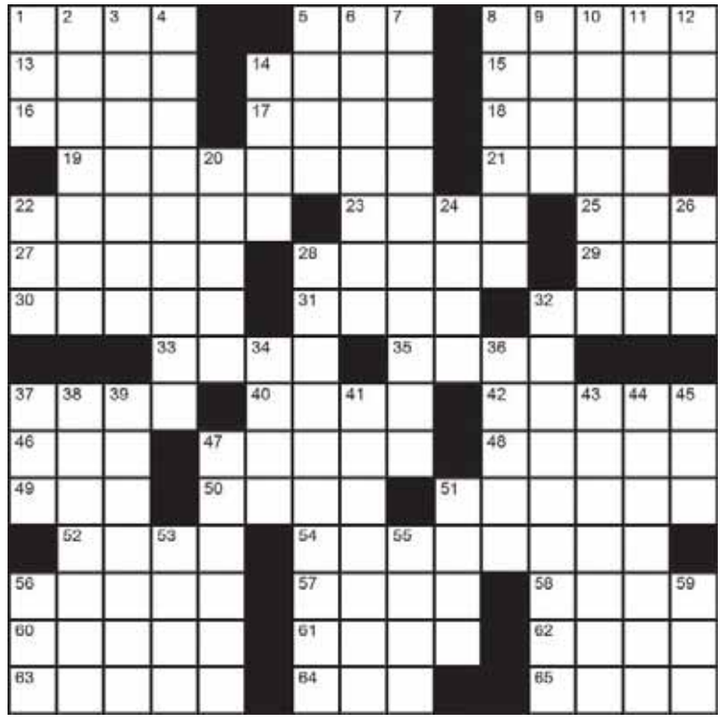
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. BlackBerry's new Android-based smartphone
5. Canadian hwy. miles
8. Large in scale
13. Network of nerves
14. Actress Loretta
15. Justin Bieber mentor
16. America's Maritime Guardian org.
17. Singer Irene
18. "Superman" (1978) star Christopher
19. What the Scots call December 31st
21. Pallid
22. Mr. Lewis of Showtime's "Homeland"
23. Jeb or George
25. Mr. Stallone, briefly
27. Sleuthed
28. Spirited
29. Bard's 'before'
30. __ helping hand
31. Teatro __ Scala (Milan opera house)
32. Islets
33. _-TASS (Russian news agency)
35. Curve
37. Kitchen meas.
40. Charge card printout, briefly
42. __ idea (Doesn't realize)
46. Mr. Geller
47. Cheque recipient
48. "That's cool with me.", retro-style: 2 wds.
49. Irritate
50. Bldg. planner
51. Cartoon skunk Pepe, and surnamesakes: 2 wds.
52. Langley and Edwards, e.g., in The States
54. Average
56. Dress alternative
57. The Queen's cypher: letter + Roman numeral + letter
58. Mushroomed
60. "C'est La Vie": '80s hit for American singer Robbie __
61. Rattling breathing sound
62. Within earshot
63. Island of Greece
64. T-shirt size
65. "Just you wait, '__ 'iggins..." - Eliza Doolittle

DOWN
1. Rock logo insurance company, briefly
2. Change form
3. KC and The Sunshine Band's "Keep __ __' Love"
4. Hors d'oeuvre platter extra: 2 wds.
5. Olympic skater Michelle
6. Airport northwest of Montreal
7. Do this to ring in 2016: 3 wds.
8. Candice Bergen comedy, "__ Brown"
9. On the ocean
10. Joni Mitchell's "__ Morning"
11. Merrymaking, as on December 31st
12. Mined stuff
14. Skim
20. Cross with: 2 wds.
22. Internet hookup letters
24. Tussle
26. Winner's shout!
28. Attendees at December 31st events: 2 wds.
32. Bubbly beverage for celebrations
34. Wise Owl link: 2 wds.
36. Dog: French
37. Phone's 8 letters
38. Foamy ocean wave crashing towards the shore
39. December 31st countdown bit, "...eight, seven, __, __..."
41. The suffix 'ism' is the _-Webster's 2015 Word of the Year
43. Reg __, Correspondent, CBC's "The National"
44. Happy __ __ 2016!!!
45. Photo __ (PR events)
47. Mortar and __
51. Read: French
53. Ms. Spears, briefly
55. __ pickles
56. Canadian engineering group, ___-Lavalin
59. Humour style

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
If you talk big today you'll need something more than bravado to back it up. Don't find yourself up against someone who not only knows how to talk the talk but walk the walk as well.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You may seem less energetic than you usually are but in money matters and business you must find a way to overcome your lethargy. If you want good things you'll have to earn them.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You're back in command and eager to make up for lost time today. But don't be so eager that you neglect to use your brain. Make sure you plan ahead.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
If you say or do the wrong thing today you could make an enemy of someone who should have been a friend. Think before you speak or act.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Friendships and group activities are under excellent stars at the moment so the old year should end on a high note and, with luck, the new year will start even higher. Crowds and noisy social scenes are right up your alley.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If you want to move up in the world over the coming year then you should make your play for fame and fortune now. Even if you are not particularly ambitious you won't be able to hide in the shadows in 2016.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You will be even more adventurous than you usually are as the old year ends and the new year begins. Make as much fuss and noise as possible.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Someone you have financial dealings with may try to sell you short but they will only succeed if you let them. It may be New Year's Eve and a time to have fun but keep your guard up when it comes to finances.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You may be full of festive cheer but you need to be careful, especially in how you relate to people who have a call on your time and devotion. Try not to be too assertive or it could be you who is on the receiving end.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
This is going to be an extremely busy new year for you, so pace yourself and don't overindulge... too much. You will get a lot done over the next few days but don't take on too much.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Planet of action and energy, Mars, is very much on your side. But only until Sunday, so make the most of it and do something creative, maybe even a little crazy.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Don't let your emotions get the better of you. You are not the only one wanting to have a good time — and when different ideas of having a "good time" clash the results can sometimes be messy!

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

			1		3			
		2				7		
	4				5		9	
3		6						2
			8		9			
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			6		4			

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Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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2	8	6	1	7	3	9	5	4
7	5	1	8	9	4	6	3	2
3	4	9	2	5	6	1	8	7
1	2	3	4	6	7	5	9	8
4	9	7	5	1	8	2	6	3
5	6	8	3	2	9	7	4	1
8	7	5	6	3	1	4	2	9
9	3	2	7	4	5	8	1	6
6	1	4	9	8	2	3	7	5

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